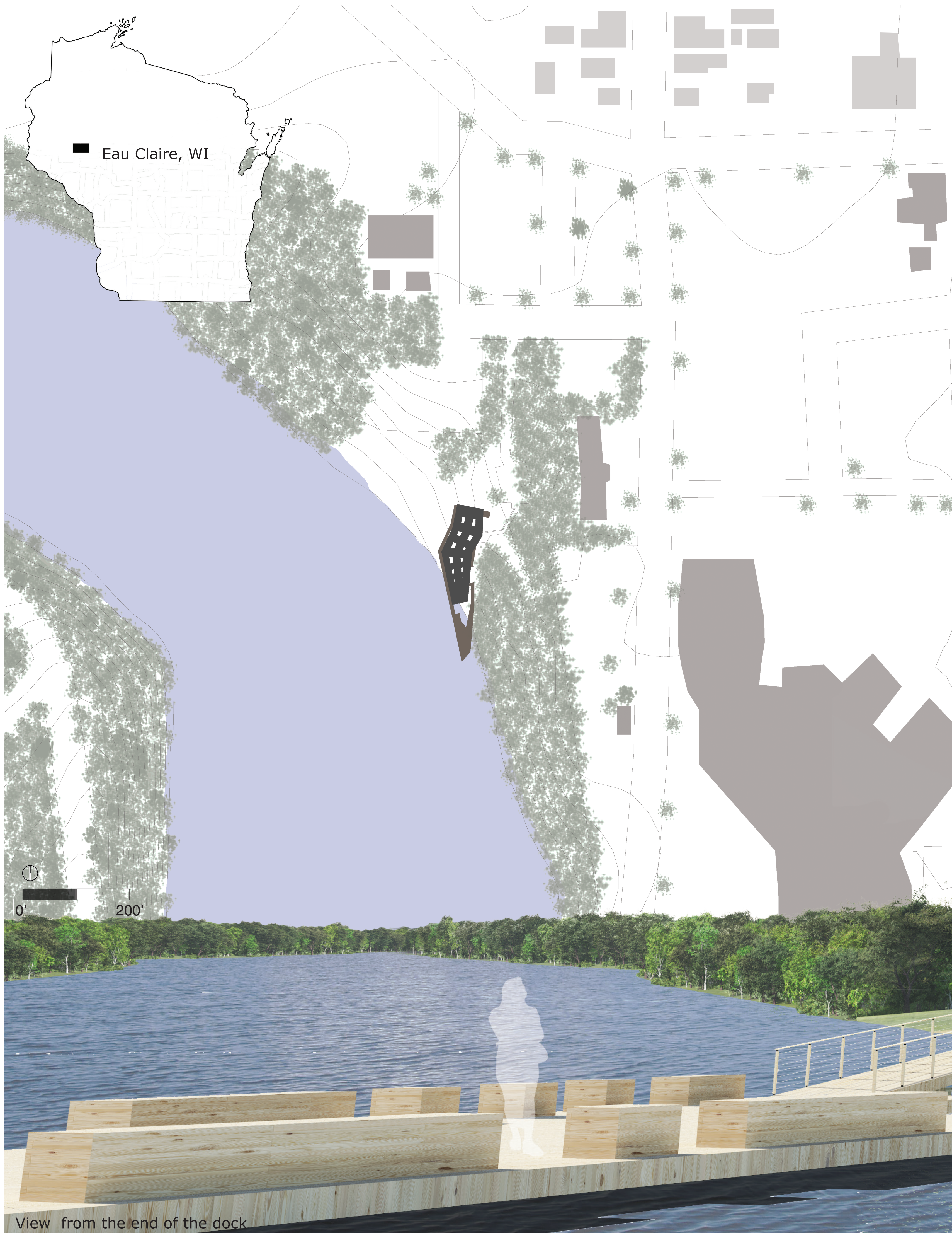


Hope

An Environment

Cancer Support Center

When a person receives a dreaded diagnosis of cancer, their life immediately changes. They are thrown into a situation of uncertainty and anxiety, often without knowing where to turn or what to do. At a hospital they will be whisked into a treatment program that they don't fully understand in the hopes of recovery. This is the hospital machine doing its job, diagnosis the ailment and curing the physical disease. The problem is that cancer affects much more than just the body, it is also devastating to the mental and emotional wellbeing of a person, which most hospitals do not address. Those afflicted with cancer need the means to also heal psychologically as to receive a holistic treatment that will give them a better chance of beating the disease.

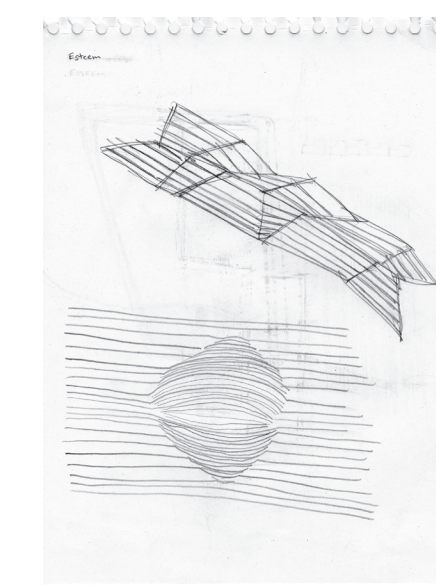


View from the end of the dock

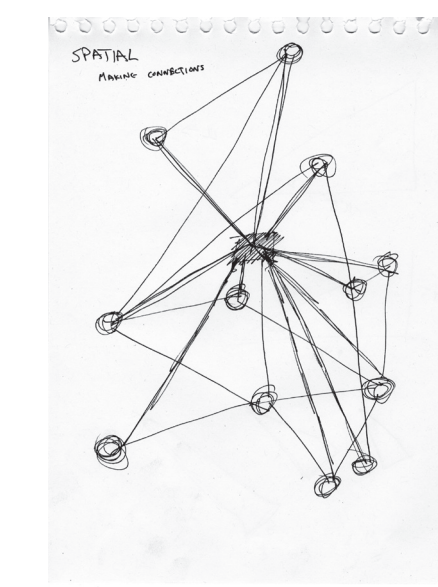
for Revitalization

We all have a variety of needs, both physical and psychological that we need to have met to not just to survive but to live a happy and fulfilling life. A.H. Maslow called being able to living life to it's fullest "self-actualization". To be able to do this, as he hypothesized, specific needs need to be met. The needs that must be met are as follows; **physiological needs, security needs, social needs, esteem needs and self-actualizing needs**. What cancer does is stop people from achieving each of the needs, barring them from living a fulfilling life. This cancer support center looks beyond the physiological needs that a hospital addresses and aims to help people achieve all of their needs. What people need at this time in their lives is a place that inspires hope.

Concept Sketches: a reaction to the needs



Esteem



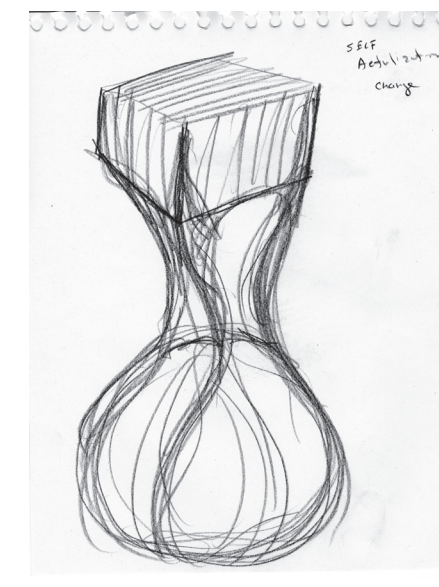
Social



Physiological



Security



Self-actualization

Physiological

The body has certain basic needs that are vital to everyday survival. These essentials are the need for food, sleep, air and water. When dealing with cancer, lifesaving medicine also becomes a basic need for survival.

While these most basic physiological needs can occur anywhere, humans need to have a meaning attached to the where these take place for us to perceive that the need is met. It is the meaning that we have come to attach to various spaces during our life experiences that will determine if a space is the right space for a meal or for sleeping. This is what the support center strives to achieve, establishing a sense of place with which the needs can be fulfilled to their fullest extent.



Entry View



Interior shot from the dining area.

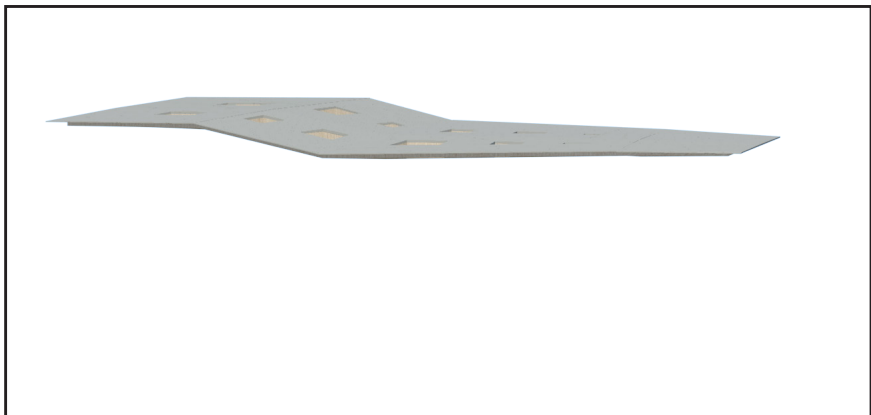


Security

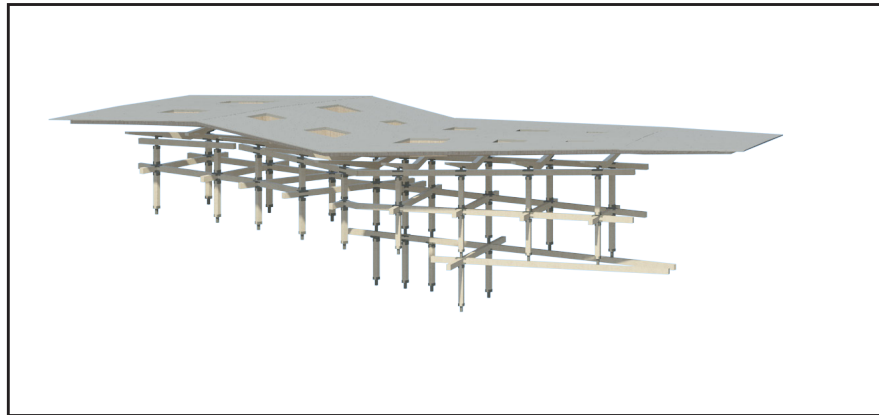
Cancer robs the feeling of security by taking away what people know and are comfortable with.

The design reacts to the need of security in two ways. The first is by providing a suitable shelter for people. A shelter represents safety from outside elements and the idea of a shelter was exaggerated in the design. The second way the building provides a feeling of security is by having a design that is familiar and comfortable to people. This was done through attention to the scale of various spaces.

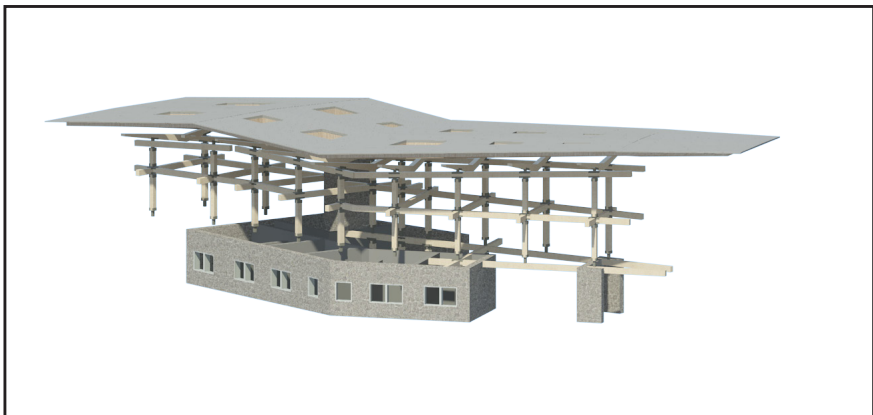
Creating a Shelter



In the design the idea of a roof is exaggerated by creating a massive plane which covers all of the building under it.



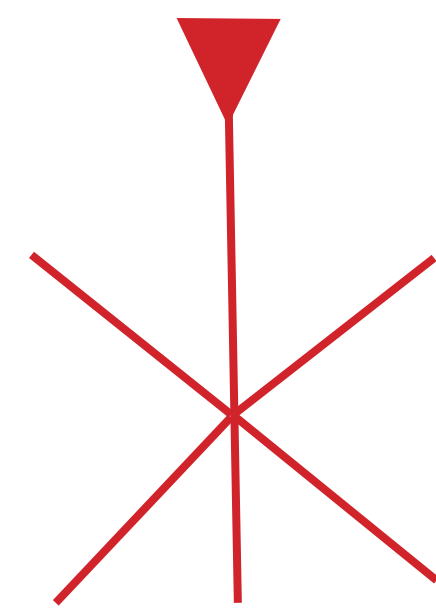
A robust structure confidently holds the roof giving the occupants visual security of how the large mass is held up.



The roof and structure rest upon a strong stone foundation that holds up the building.



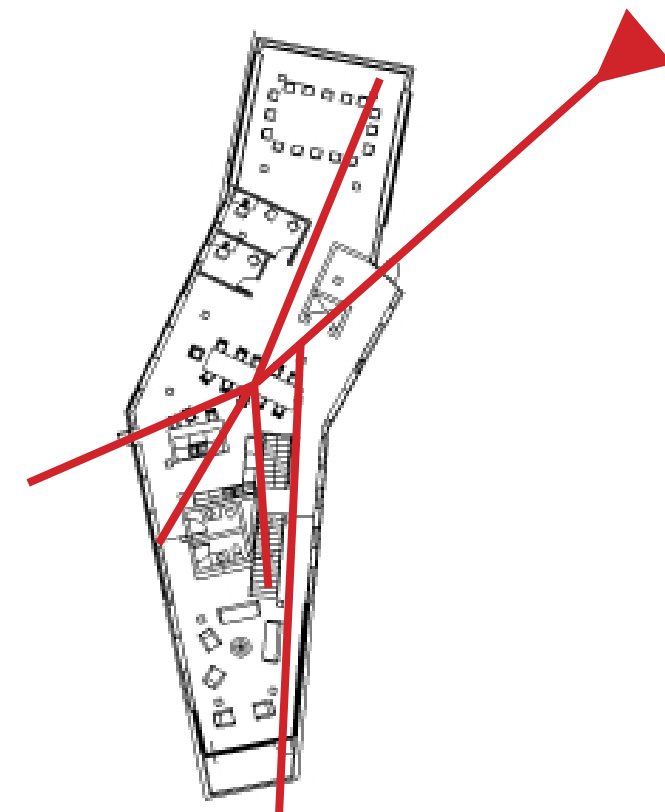
The thick wooden exterior walls surround the building as if to hug and protect the occupants inside.



Social

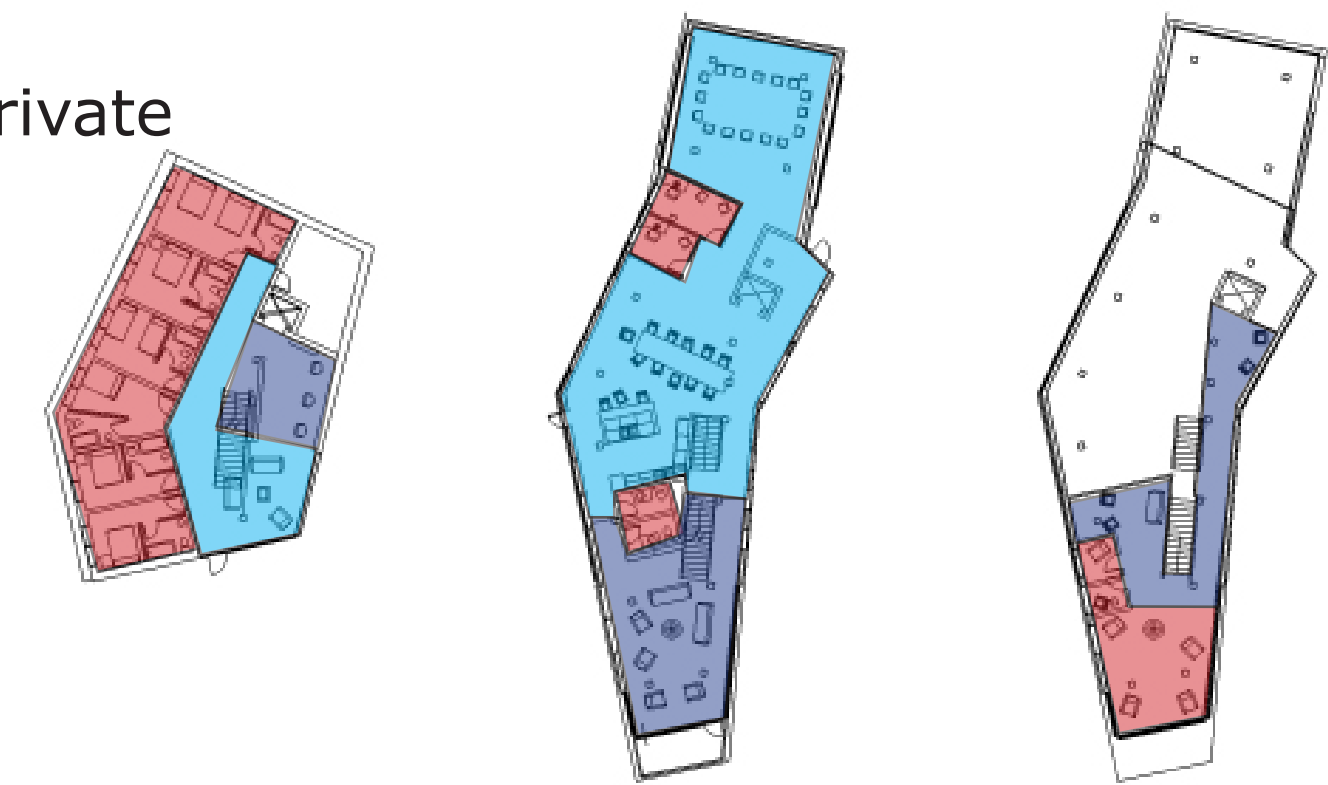
People need a place to reconnect with other people and even more important, connect with those who can relate to their situation.

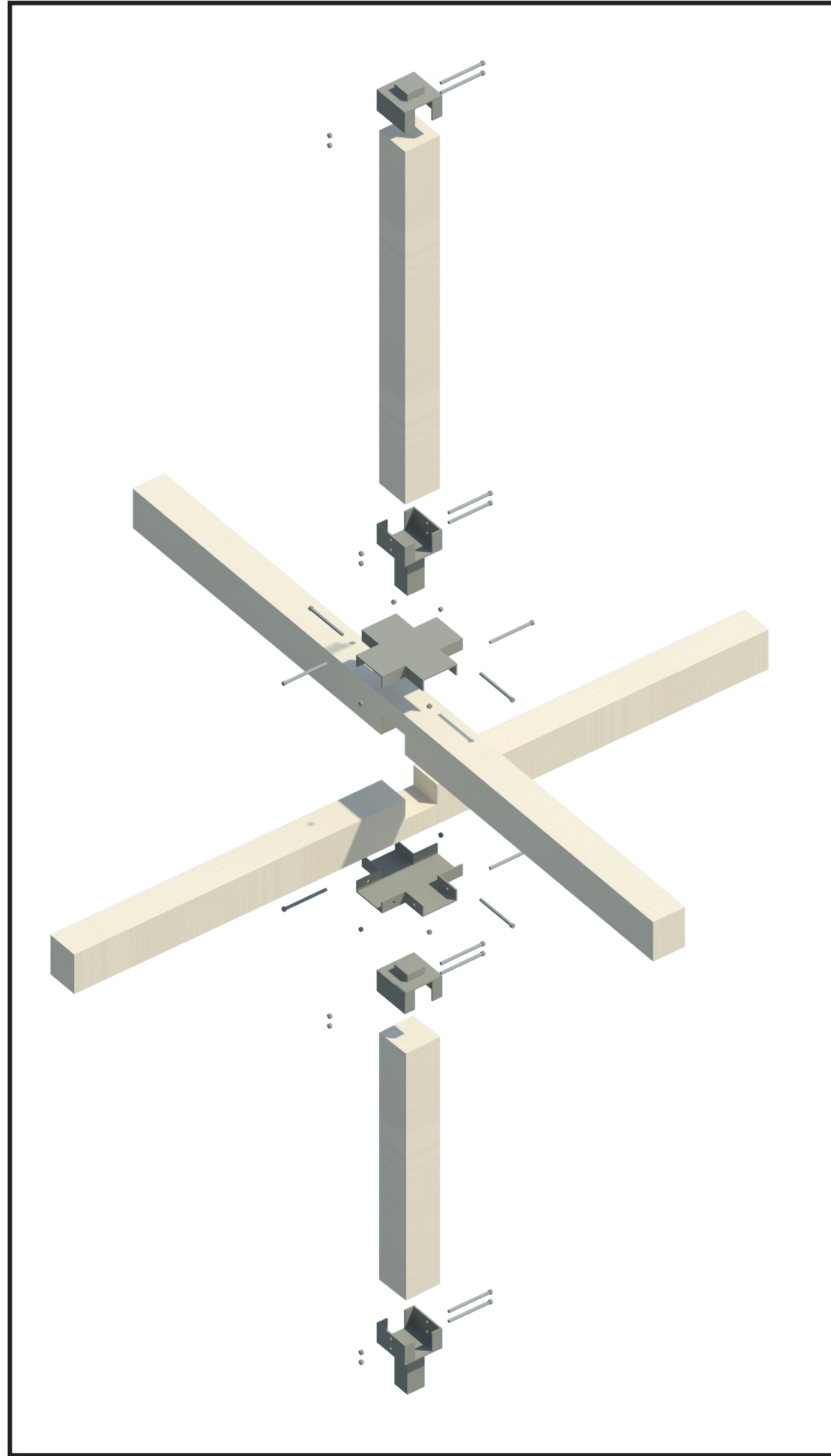
A pinwheel organizational scheme was used as to make all parts of the building accessible to a visitor as soon as they enter. In this scheme a person will enter into the hearth of the building and from there be given the option to move to a variety of spaces from private to public.



The diagram shows how the pinwheel organization was utilized. The organization allows for easy flow from space to space. Because of the fairly open floor plan, there is also the possibility of a positive, yet unexpected exchange from a private area to public area. This encourages interaction between the spaces and people that may not have been realized before, creating new relationships.

- Public
- Semi- Private
- Private





Connection Detail

Esteem

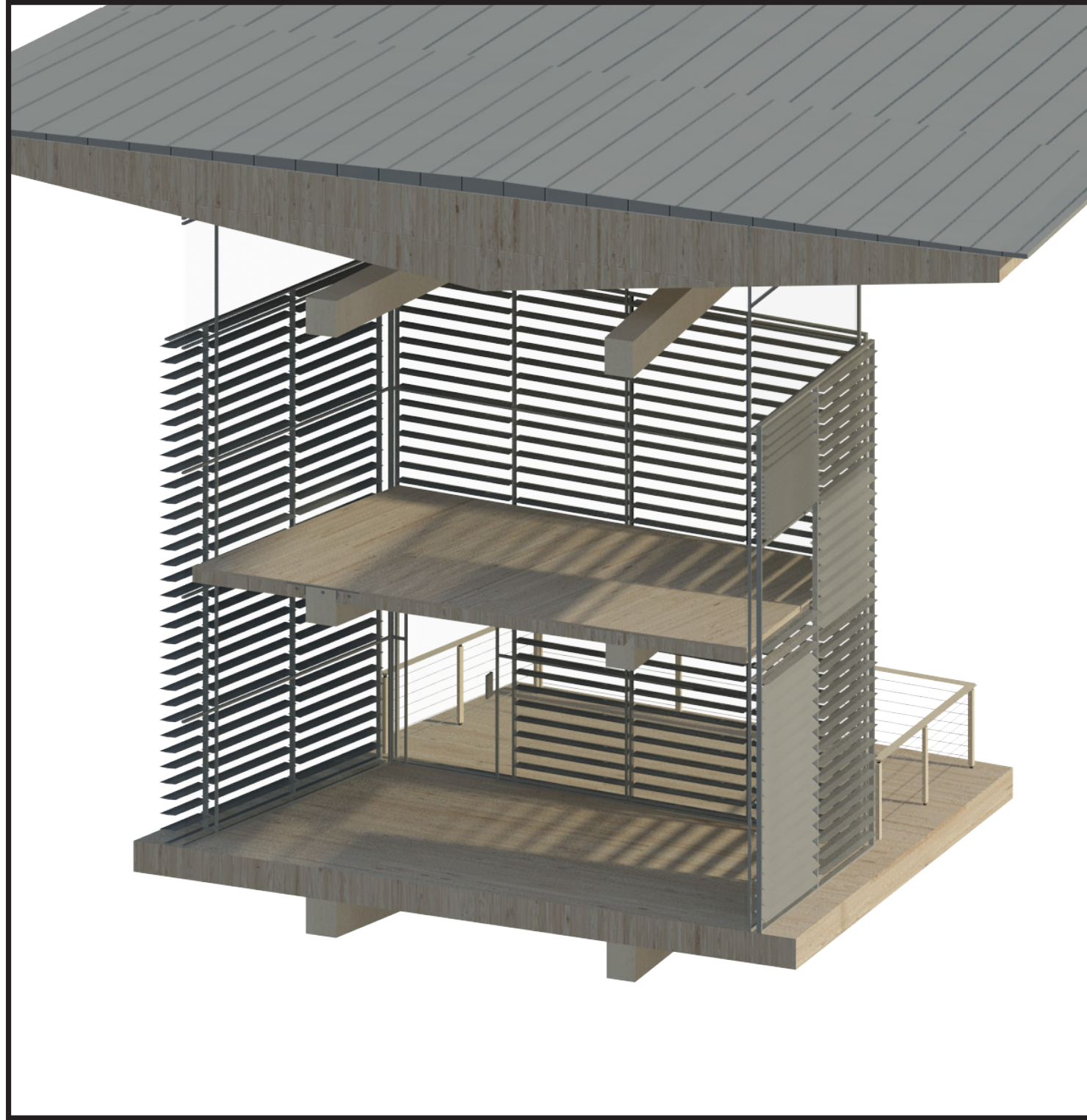
It is important for people to feel good about themselves, to have a feeling of self worth and to have a sense of accomplishment. Cancer robs people of their feeling of self worth and value.

To raise the esteem of the visitors the building had to be designed in a way that made people feel like it was designed especially for them. The response to this need was careful detailing throughout the building. Also visitors were given the ability to control their environment through the use of operable windows and an adjustable louver sun shading system.



Self-Actualization

Being diagnosed with cancer often derails visions and dreams people have for the future leaving them grasping for a purpose in their life. The center helps a person find meaning in their life by providing opportunities to experience something new. This discovery could be finding the inherent connection humans have with the natural world or it could be a new relationship that was facilitated by the design.



The Meditation Room overlooking the lake.



0' 10'

Section looking East